



# New commander ready to roll

## *Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc takes command of 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing*

By Maj. **Regina Winchester**  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Hundreds of Airmen turned out to welcome the newest commander for the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing at a change of command ceremony here today at 10 a.m.

Brig. Gen. Blair Hansen turned over the reins of the 332nd AEW to Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc in a ceremony officiated by Lt. Gen. Walter Buchanan III, Combined Forces Air Component Commander. Also in attendance at the ceremony were Michael Dominguez, acting secretary of the Air Force; Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, National Guard Bureau chief; Lt. Gen. John Bradley, Air Force Reserve chief and Maj. Gen. Kamal Abdul Satar Al-Barazanchi, Chief of Staff of the Iraqi Air Force.

Standing on a podium against a backdrop of the Balad AB flight line, General Buchanan gave opening remarks referencing the wing's Tuskegee Airmen heritage.

"The 332nd is integral to the Coalition effort from the ground up, literally. You do your operations in the style and spirit of the Tuskegee Airmen, and you can all be very proud of your accomplishments," the general said. He then presented General Hansen with a bronze star for his accomplishments as wing commander.

After receiving his award, General Hansen made his final comments as the wing commander. He also emphasized the wing's heritage, and reiterated his pride in the Airmen of the wing.



Photo by Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**

**Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, right, accepts the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing guidon from Lt. Gen. Walter Buchanan III, Combined Forces Air Component Commander, during the change of command ceremony Wednesday.**

"My single greatest take-away from my time here is my absolute confidence in our Airmen – in their high standards, selflessness and dedication. This command has been the highlight of my career," said General Hansen.

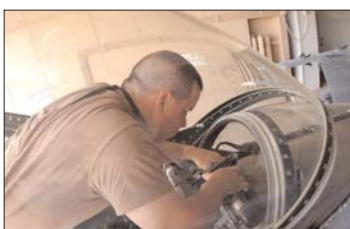
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### Multifaceted mission



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### Keeping em' flying



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### Honoring the colors



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# Acting SECAF impressed with wing members, operations

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

The acting secretary of the Air Force, the honorable Michael Dominguez, traveled to Balad Air Base, visiting with deployed Airmen. What he said he found were highly-motivated, dedicated people working together for the success of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing mission.

"The highlight of my visit has been the individual Airmen," he said, "and seeing what great people they are, serving their country, making the sacrifice."

Secretary Dominguez said he was proud of how Airmen were coming into Balad with an open mind, working side by side with their sister services and coalition forces.

"I'm really excited about how open they are to be here with the Army," he said. "I've witnessed enormous professionalism, dedication, motivation and unsurpassed talent."

According to Secretary Dominguez, Airmen should be prepared to work even closer with their sister services and Coalition partners in the future.

**“The highlight of my visit has been the individual Airmen ... and seeing what great people they are, serving their country, making the sacrifice.”**

- Honorable Michael Dominguez  
Acting Secretary of the Air Force

"The fight of the future expeditionary Air Force will be increasingly joint," he said. "So understanding that and perfecting those skills of working together with people from different backgrounds and cultures is huge. Those are the critical warrior skills of the expeditionary Airman of the future."

Not only are many Airmen working side by side with sister forces for the first time, many are working with the Total Force for the first time. There are many Guard and Reserve here, playing vital roles in the wing's mission. Secretary Dominguez said he was impressed with

how smoothly the units blend together.

"Balad is a model for how it is supposed to work," he said. "You can't tell who's Guard, Reserve or active duty. Each component brings something special. Having them blend together, work together is really strong for us. That's something that will also be characteristic of the way we fight and work in the future."

Secretary Dominguez was gratified to see that morale was high at Balad. He said one specific moment revealed to him the character of his Airmen.

"A female Airman here missed her son's first birthday and that's a biggie," he said. "But she's over here doing her job and feeling good about what she's doing. When you have that kind of experience and morale stays high, you know you're doing worthwhile work."

It is also up to Airmen to take care of each other, said the secretary.

"I've been telling everybody, look after your wingman," he said. "This is a dangerous place so be aware of your wingman. Look after them and yourself. We care about you and want you back safe."

## COMMANDER, from Page 1

"I'm sad to leave, but I'm tickled that your new commander is the guy he is. He's smart, strong, tough, seasoned – an Airmen's Airman. General Gorenc: tighten your cinch; you're in for the ride of your life, as you write the next chapter in the lore of the Tuskegee Airmen."

General Gorenc, who comes to Balad AB from Langley Air Force Base, Va., where he was the commander of the 1st Fighter Wing, took the guidon from the 332nd AEW command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Dennis Krebs, and officially assumed command.

"I recognize I have big shoes to fill, and will work hard to finish all you have started," General Gorenc said in his first

comments as the wing commander.

"This business is a uniquely human endeavor, powered by Airmen who embody integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do," he said.

"Success requires every Airman to trust their leadership, respect their peers and mentor their subordinates. Success requires Airmen to subordinate their personal desires to mission accomplishment. It requires each of you to be at the top of your game every day.

"I pledge my best efforts to you, and together we will build upon the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen. Our mission is simple: combat airpower for America, right here, right now. So let's get busy!"

### 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Editorial Staff

**Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc**  
Wing Commander  
**Maj. Regina Winchester**  
Public Affairs Chief  
**Master Sgt. Christopher Haug**  
Public Affairs NCOIC  
**Senior Airman Tim Beckham**  
Web Administrator  
**Senior Airman Shaun Emery**  
Red Tail Flyer Editor

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The public affairs office can be contacted at 443-6005, or by e-mail at: [redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil) or [332aew.pa@blab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:332aew.pa@blab.centaf.af.mil).

The deadline for all editorial submissions is noon the Friday prior to the date of publication.



# Defending Balad involves multilayered security front

By Master Sgt. **Kelly Mixson**  
332nd Security Forces NCOIC patrol section

Defending the forces stationed at Balad Air Base involves more than the standard multilayered security approach of posting patrols, manning security posts, looking for and identifying improvised explosive devices, responding to mortar attacks and suppressing various threats. It also involves making friends in the neighborhood, according to the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron here.

Air Force security forces protecting the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing learned quickly when they went out on their first humanitarian mission that the locals are in desperate need of basic items like shoes, linen, towels and toiletry items. They also learned that these humanitarian missions opened access to areas they needed to secure the base.

Technical Sgt. Edward Oslica, 332nd ESFS noncommissioned officer in charge,

explained that when they go out on these missions, the kids in the neighborhood will rush the convoys. He said it can be a bit chaotic but "we quickly learned how to manage the situation."

The solution they came up with was old-fashioned humor.

"One time we went out and two of the kids had bicycles," Tech. Sgt. Jeff Bradley, patrolman, explained. "I like to ride bikes and one of the kids offered to race. So the other let me borrow his bike and we set up a drag race."

"The kids liked it so much, we ended up racing a lot of the kids – it was fun."

Meanwhile, the convoy was able to pass out tennis shoes and linen to the villagers in an orderly fashion, according to Sergeant Oslica.

Meeting the needs of the Iraqi people, the 332nd ESFS has conducted two humanitarian relief operations, dubbed "Operation Sole Train." These operations have distributed 3,000 pairs of shoes and



2,000 pounds of relief supplies to four local villages.

The squadron's primary mission is to detect and defeat insurgents trying to infiltrate the air base and to support the Army with the defense of Logistical Support Area Anaconda. Toward this effort, the 332nd ESFS maintains and operates a system of sensors and cameras throughout the installation.

"These security zones are supported by a series of entry control points to allow only authorized personnel into our wings' security zones," Sergeant Oslica said.

These defenders operate in concert with the LSA Anaconda base defense forces to counter enemy vehicle borne explosive devices and infiltrators, and respond to mortar and rocket attacks.

"These men and women respond to put themselves between our fellow Airmen and the threat to ensure the wing's mission is a success," Sergeant Oslica said. "One of the best examples was during a recent mortar attack where security forces ran to impact sites and rendered first aid to injured Airmen while gathering information needed to direct air assets towards the mortar launch point."

Jointly, our defenses are integrated with Army at the Joint Defense Operation Center, he said, which the Army and Air Force defense capabilities side by side taking advantage of the strengths of each service. The 332nd ESFS augments this



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Edward Oslica

**Members of the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron hand out tennis shoes and linen to local Iraqi villages. Humanitarian missions are just one aspect of the 332nd ESFS mission at Balad Air Base.**

See **SECURITY**, Page 7

# BEHIND THE SCENES

## F-16 maintainers make sure curtain gets raised

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

**L**IKE A BROADWAY SHOW, THE STARS GET ALL the attention. But behind the scenes, key roles must be performed for the show to go on.

The unique theater which the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing performs under features fast, agile fighter planes, providing air support for troops on the ground. But without the hard work and dedication of aircraft maintainers working behind the scenes, the curtain couldn't be raised.

Members of the 510th and 332nd Aircraft Maintenance Units provide daily maintenance and pre-flight checks for F-16 sorties from Balad Air Base. Their mission is to ensure that pilots get in the air and back on the ground safely. It's a mission that each member takes seriously.

"We want to ensure our pilots have a quality product for their missions," said Lt. Col. Dave Salva, 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron maintenance operations officer. "Whether we're providing close air support for troops, a show of force or serving as an eye from the sky, without maintained aircraft we couldn't do our mission."

Each plane is checked from front to back before each mission. The planes are stripped and rebuilt ensuring each part works properly. The work is tedious, and the ratio of flight hours to maintenance hours is stacked heavily on the maintenance side, said Colonel Salva.

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Photos by Senior Airman Tim Beckham

Technical Sgt. Brad Smith, 510th Aircraft Maintenance Unit aircrew egress supervisor, does a final inspection on the hook lever bolts along the sides of the cockpit of the F-16. If a pilot must eject, the bolts break off, releasing the canopy.



The 510th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron maintainers are responsible for the maintenance on the F-16s deployed from Aviano Air Base, Italy.

**MAINTAINERS**, From Page 4

Because members of the 332nd EAMXS have been on tour with their planes for awhile they are able to solve problems quickly. The planes they maintain here are the ones they've been working on at their home stations.

"We already know the systems on these aircraft," said Senior Master Sgt. Lloyd Muranaka, 332nd EAMXS noncommissioned officer in charge. "We know their history and their systems, and what it takes to get them in the air."

Just like an automobile, aircraft have key systems that need great attention. Each one, like the egress system is vital to pilots.

"It's their last resource to survival," said Tech. Sgt. Larry Vasquez, 510th AMU egress shop chief.

The checks maintainers make are the same ones they've been making since day one, but maintainers say complacency and short cuts have no place in a deployed environment.

"Each check has a purpose," said Senior Airman Justin Foulsham, 332nd EAMXS assisted dedicated crew chief. "It's not about rushing, it's about getting planes in the air."

With multiple curtain calls every day, aircraft maintainers are hard at work knowing the show must go on.



Photos by Senior Airman Tim Beckham



(Top and above) Members of the 332nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron work on an F-16. (Left) Aircraft maintainers, Staff Sgt. James Lucas and Senior Airman Justin Foulsham, install a liquid oxygen converter on an F-16.





Photos by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

# Paying Tribute

*Airmen volunteer  
free time to honor  
Stars and Stripes*

The base honor guard presents the colors during the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing change of command ceremony Wednesday.



Senior Airman Jason Brown, 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron, prepares for the wing change of command Tuesday, during honor guard practice.

By Senior Airman **Tim Beckham**  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Airmen here spend most of their time at work, but a few are spending their free time giving back.

Be it at a promotion, award ceremony or a change of command, the base honor guard Airmen are here to make sure the appropriate customs and courtesies are met.

"Our main duty here is colors ceremony for change of commands," said Senior Airman Camron Cowan, honor guard member here.

"Recently we have begun flying flags for members of Balad who request it. We'll have an order form soon on the website, but right now we're just letting individuals request one from an honor guard member."

Being on the honor guard team in a deployed location is much different than being on the team back home.

"I've found this honor guard detail extremely easy compared to the details back in the States," said Airman Cowan. "We (honor guard team) keep the details short, without removing the feeling of pride that you're a part of something special. We volunteer for the details that can be managed with our work schedules."

Honor guard details may not be their primary job here, but they get more admiration out of it than one might think.

"You are thanked more for your duties in honor guard than anywhere else," said Airman Cowan, who is also a network administrator in the 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron.

The team of about 35 Airmen trains four times a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Airman Cowan said that each member is required to attend at least one of the four practices a week.

"I recommend it to anyone," said Airman Cowan. "It's easy, rewarding, and it takes a bit of time away from a stressful day."

Members of the base honor guard come from different career fields and all have various amounts of honor guard training.

"Even people who have no honor guard experience should come out," said Airman Cowan. "We (honor guard team) provide honors in a professional way to the deployed force here."

"Everything on Balad is referenced to the 332nd's past, and I know those who administer the honor guard ensure we keep that proud heritage alive."

## Air Force leaders send Independence Day message

WASHINGTON – (The following is an Independence Day message from Michael L. Dominguez, acting secretary of the Air Force, and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper:)

“This July 4th, we celebrate our nation’s 229th year of independence. In those 229 years, the United States has embodied the principles of democracy and presented freedom’s virtues for countless nations and people.

“Our road to democracy began with the original 13 colonies and hasn’t always been easy. The United States has fought for her freedom and ideals whenever and wherever needed. We continue to do so today, with Airmen deployed and engaged in the global war on terrorism.

“As you celebrate our independence this year, keep those who are serving far away from home, and their families, in your thoughts and prayers. Remember

their sacrifices and the sacrifices of courageous patriots who came before them.

“You, America’s Airmen, represent the very best we have to offer. Citizens of this nation and people of the world look to you as defenders of freedom.

We couldn’t be more proud of your strength and unity, and we thank you and your families for your selfless service. Have a safe and happy 4th of July!”

### SECURITY, from Page 3

capability with an extensive system of cameras and ground surveillance radars that help detect and respond to insurgents attacking us from outside the installation.

These threats are identified and passed to Army units responsible for defeating the insurgency outside the installation.

“This system has saved lives by working with the Army as a team to detect and detain insurgent suspects leaving the site of a mortar launch point, as well as detecting and collecting evidence against a major insurgent leader carrying out IED attacks on roads leading to the installation,” Maj. Gregory Reese, 332nd ESFS commander, said.

“Without the Airmen from the 332nd ESFS bringing these capabilities to the close defense fight for Balad Air Base and LSA Anaconda, these suspects would still be at large, killing and injuring our fellow Airmen and Soldiers,” he said.

On another front, the men and women of the security forces

also help make Balad Air Base a safer place by operating a small unmanned aerial vehicle that puts Air Force eyes on target in the locations the enemy is likely to launch a mortar attack from.

In 2005, the UAV helped keep polling places for the Iraqi election under constant surveillance as well as detecting an insurgent emplacing an IED. The information was forwarded up the chain of command and the insurgent was killed by a combination of Army and Air Force units.

Red-Tail defenders have conducted frequent combat patrols to deter, detect and defeat insurgents in the base security zone. To date, the 332nd ESFS has located three insurgent weapons caches and conducted joint raids with the Army and Air Force Office of Special Investigation agents to capture insurgent leaders.

Next time you come through an entry control point or pass by a 332nd ESFS patrol, realize you are only seeing one part of a vast network to help make the Air Force mission at Balad a success.

## 4th of July events



**6 a.m. - 7 a.m.** - 5-K fun race beginning in front of the 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group.

**8 a.m. - noon** - Panther challenge at the H-6 basketball court

**1:30 - 3 p.m.** - 4th of July bingo

**3 p.m.** - Subway/Pizza party

**6 p.m.** - “Independence Day” showing at the H-6 theater

**9 p.m.** - Fireworks





## Meet your neighbor



Photo by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

### Senior Airman Chris Shaffer

**Home station:** Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

**Unit:** 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron small computers office

**Hobbies:** Working on my car

**How do you contribute to the mission?**

My two-man shop is responsible for all the small computers at Balad Air Base.

**What is your favorite aspect of deployment?**

This is my first deployment, so the experience alone is great.

**Besides your family, what do you miss back home?**

I'm really going to miss the 4th of July celebrations back home this week.

## Know what this is?

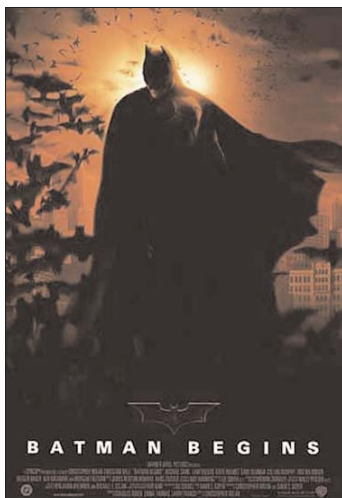


Photo by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at [redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil). The first person with the correct answer wins a \$5 gift certificate courtesy of the 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron. Last week's photo of a seat belt buckle was first identified by Senior Airman Leejuan Davis, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing administrator.

# Sustainer movie schedule

Schedule is subject to change



### Today

3 p.m. - The Honeymooners

6 p.m. - Batman Begins

9 p.m. - Batman Begins

### Saturday, July 2

3 p.m. - Amityville Horror

6 p.m. - Batman Begins

9 p.m. - Batman Begins

### Sunday, July 3

3 p.m. - A Lot Like Love

6 p.m. - Mr. & Mrs. Smith

9 p.m. - Batman Begins

### Monday, July 4

3 p.m. - Batman Begins

6 p.m. - Amityville Horror

9 p.m. - A Lot Like Love

### Tuesday, July 5

3 p.m. - King's Ransom

6 p.m. - The Upside of Anger

9 p.m. - Batman Begins

### Wednesday, July 6

3 p.m. - Sahara

6 p.m. - Batman Begins

9 p.m. - A Lot Like Love

### Thursday, July 7

3 p.m. - Amityville Horror

6 p.m. - A Lot Like Love

9 p.m. - Batman Begins

